

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/004,949

Examiner

Cameron Saadat

Applicant(s)

WARD, DARRELL L.

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/16/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-41.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12/3/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

XUAN M. THAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AN 3713

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-41 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach the specific combination of elements as claimed in independent claims 1, 17, 23, 30, and 37. In particular the prior art fails to teach *inter alia* a method and system for communicating in an education environment including the feature of allowing a user of a remote unit to progress through questions independently with respect to users of other remote units by viewing a section of a common display, wherein the section is associated with the remote unit of the user and wherein the common display is simultaneously viewable by all users of the remote units. The closest prior art of record teaches the use of a common display that is simultaneously viewable by users of remote units, yet fails to teach or suggest the feature of allowing a user of the remote unit to progress through questions independently with respect to users of other remote units by viewing a section of a common display that is associated with the remote unit.

The prior art of record additionally fails to teach the specific combination of elements as claimed in independent claim 11. In particular the prior art fails to teach *inter alia* a graphical user interface having a plurality of sections, each section displaying a remote unit identifier, and each section comprising a first visible indication that is displayed in the section when a current response received from a remote unit, corresponding to the section, is not a valid response for a question; a second visible indication that is displayed when the current response is a valid response and no previous valid responses have been submitted to the current question; a third visible indication that is displayed when the current response is a valid response that matches a previous valid response; and a fourth visible indication operable to be displayed when the current response is a valid response different from a previous valid response.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Derks (USPN 5,724,357) – discloses an educational system with remote units for transmitting responses to questions, wherein the system checks if the responses are valid.
- Caldwell et al. (USPN 5,273,437) – disclose an audience participation system that receives audience responses from remote units, wherein a common display presents statistical analysis of user responses.
- Ciarallo et al. (USPN 6,704,541) – disclose a method and system for tracking the progress of students in a class.
- Shapiro et al. (USPN 4,715,818) – disclose an educational system with remote units and a common display simultaneously viewable by users of the remote units, wherein the common display is used for group instruction.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cameron Saadat whose telephone number is (571) 272-4443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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